Allotment of wheat quota to Sikkim

3048. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the monthly allotment of wheat quota to the State of Sikkim under ITDP (Integrated Tribal Development Project) and what is the supply rate per kilogram;

(b) what is the total number of tribal families who are receiving these quantities of wheat, district-wise in Sikkim; and

(c) what is the retail price per kilogram of flour and wheat at Gangtok, Mangan, Nainchi and Gayzing district headquarters of Sikkim?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) Sikkim is presently being given monthly allocation of 1000 tonnes of wheat and 4800 tonnes of rice. The projected requirement of foodgrains (both rice and wheat) for the population living in ITDP areas in Sikkim is 19464 tonnes per annum which works out to a monthly average of 1622 tonnes. Allocations to regions/districts within the State is a matter within the administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments. As per estimates based on 1991 census, 41000 families are living in the areas covered by ITDP in Sikkim. Central Government issues wheat meant for distribution in Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) areas, which include the ITDP areas, at the rate of Rs. 352 per quintal. State Governments have been advised to ensure that the end retail price of wheat in RPDS areas does not exceed Rs. 3.77 per kg. Details of retail prices of flour and wheat, district headquarter wise are not maintained by the Central Government.

National Cmusumer Policy

3049. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to formulate a National Consumer Policy for effective consumer protection: and

(b) if so, what are the areas that would cover the policy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shortage of wheat in FPs

3050. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of wheat in Fair Price Shops; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government have supplemented the foodgrains which are in short supply to the Fair Price Shops by other grains to meet the allocated units of the ration card holders; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) Central Government makes bulk allocations of commodities to States/UTs for the Public Distribution System (PDS). Sub-allocations within the State/UT, monthly allocations to individual Fair Price Shops etc. are matters within the administrative

jurisdiction of the State/UT Administrations. Central Government has not reduced the normal allocations of rice and wheat to the States/UTs.

Availability and distribution of Kerosene

3051. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints of non-availability of kerosene from Public Distribution System are on increase;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the control on kerosene distribution is full of loopholes and the food distribution officers or the District supply officers are not effectively maintaining the control; and

(c) whether Government will impose cross checks on distribution of kerosene?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) to (c) Central Government makes bulk allocation of superior kerosene oil (SKO) to the States/UTs. Retail distribution of kerosene through Public Distribution System is a matter under the administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments/UT Administrations as the operational responsibility for implementation of Public Distribution System (PDS) is that of the State Governments and UT Administrations. The States/Union Territories undertake raids and surprise checks as part of their enforcement functions. The States/UTs have been advised to keepstrict watch over supply of essential commodities including kerosene and price situation and take remedial action under various Acts like Essential Commodities Act etc. to curb blackmarketing, hoarding and diversion of PDS commodities including kerosene so that the common man does not suffer. Central Government does not maintain information relating to complaints at Fair Price Shops level. While there have been demands for increased allocations of SKO from many States/UTs, the Central Government has not received complaints about non availability of SKO from any State Government/UT Administration. Central Government has no proposal to set up any separate enforcement machinery for cross checks on distribution of SKO.

Distribution of coarse cloth through PDS

3052. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 93 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 1995 and state:

(a) whether Government plan to introduce distribution of coarse cloth or khadi through the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Central Government has no proposal to procure and allocate coarse cloth and khadi to State Governments/UT Administrations for the Public Distribution System.

Consumer awareness programme organised by Bus

3053. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any consumer welfare awareness programme was organised at New Delhi by the Bureau of Indian Standards on the occasion of World Consumer Day in recent past;